

# Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to DHMH for the week ending October 12, 2013

Prepared by the Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response  
Prevention and Health Promotion Administration  
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

## SUMMARY

During the week ending October 12, 2013, influenza-like illness (ILI) intensity in Maryland was **MINIMAL** and there was **SPORADIC** geographic spread of influenza. Four influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported. One specimen received at the DHMH Laboratories Administration tested positive for type A influenza by PCR. No outbreaks of respiratory disease were reported. ILI visits to sentinel providers showed an uptick but were still below expected levels.

[Click here to visit our influenza surveillance web page](#)

### ILI Intensity Levels

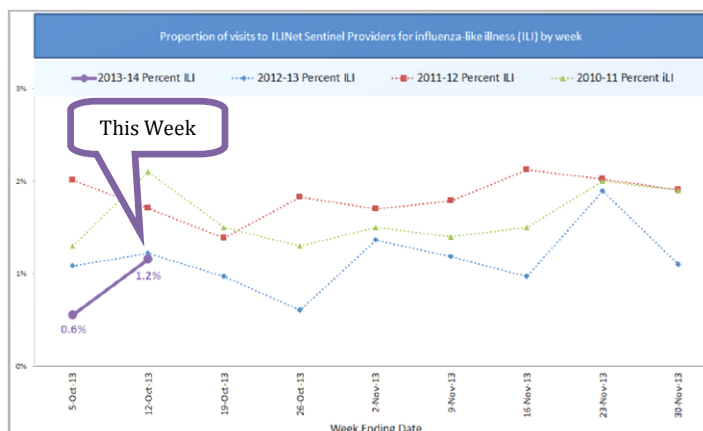
✓ Minimal
Low
Moderate
High

### Influenza Geographic Spread

No Activity
✓ Sporadic
Local
Regional
Widespread

## ILINet Sentinel Providers

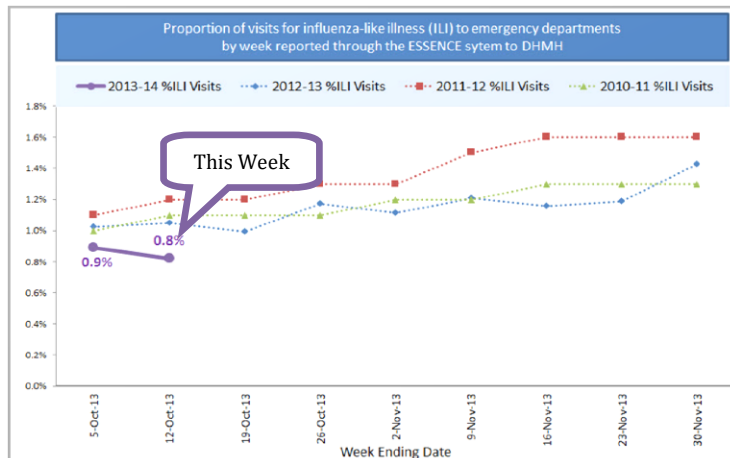
Eleven sentinel providers reported a total of 8,025 visits last week. Of those, 93 (1.2%) were visits for ILI. This is **below** the Maryland baseline of **2.0%**.



ILI Visits To Sentinel Providers By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	21 (23%)	18 (32%)	39 (26%)
Age 5-24	47 (51%)	22 (39%)	69 (46%)
Age 25-49	19 (20%)	13 (23%)	32 (21%)
Age 50-64	6 (6%)	1 (2%)	7 (5%)
Age ≥ 65	0 (0%)	3 (5%)	3 (2%)
Total ILI Visits	93 (100%)	57 (100%)	150 (100%)

## Visits to Emergency Departments for ILI

Emergency Departments in Maryland reported a total of 44,596 visits last week through the [ESSENCE surveillance system](#). Of those, 366 (0.8%) were visits for ILI.



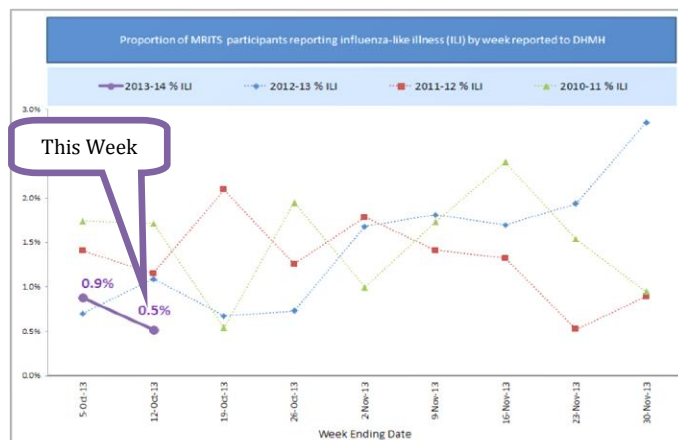
ILI Visits To Emergency Departments By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	111 (30%)	105 (26%)	216 (28%)
Age 5-24	113 (31%)	132 (33%)	245 (32%)
Age 25-49	90 (25%)	107 (27%)	197 (26%)
Age 50-64	34 (9%)	38 (9%)	72 (9%)
Age ≥ 65	17 (5%)	19 (5%)	36 (5%)
Total ILI Visits	366 (100%)	402 (100%)	768 (100%)

## Other states' influenza information:

Delaware <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/epi/influenzahome.html>  
District of Columbia <http://doh.dc.gov/service/influenza>  
Pennsylvania [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza\\_\(flu\)/14161](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_(flu)/14161)  
Virginia <http://www.vdh.state.va.us/Epidemiology/Surveillance/Influenza/>  
West Virginia <http://dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/flu/Pages/fluSurveillance.aspx>

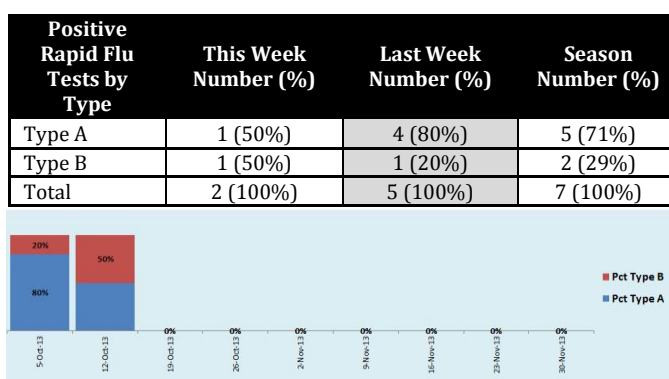
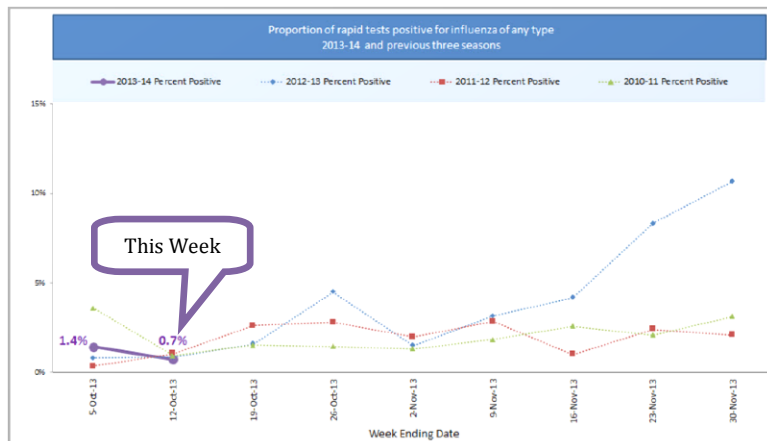
## Community-based Influenza Surveillance (MRITS and Google Flu Trends)

MRITS is the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking System, a weekly survey for ILI. A total of 577 residents responded to the [MRITS survey](#) this week. Of those, 3 (0.5%) reported having an influenza-like illness and missing a cumulative 13 days of regular daily activities. According to [Google Flu Trends](#), influenza activity is "low" in Maryland.



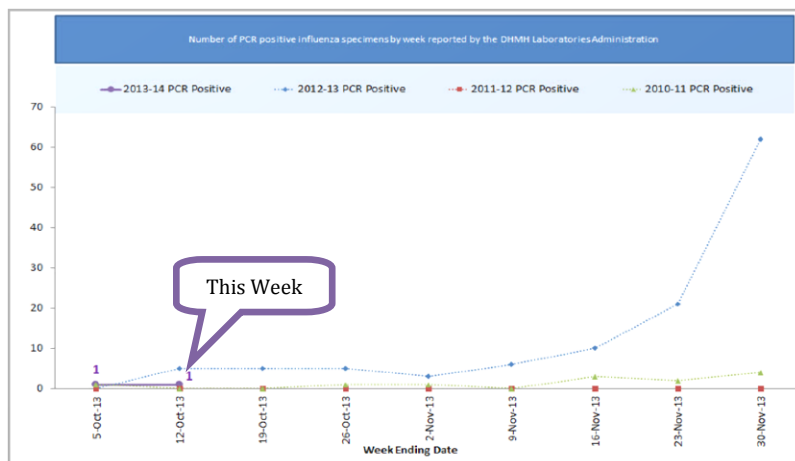
## Clinical Laboratory Influenza Testing

Thirty-four clinical laboratories reported 282 rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDT) performed. Of those, 2 (0.7%) were positive for influenza. Of those testing positive, 1 was positive for influenza type A and 1 was positive for influenza type B. The [reliability of RIDTs](#) depends largely on the conditions under which they are used. False-positive (and true-negative) results are more likely to occur when the disease prevalence in the community is low, which is generally at the beginning and end of the influenza season and during the summer.



## State Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

The DHMH Laboratories Administration performed a total of 30 PCR tests for influenza. One was positive for type A influenza. (Influenza tests performed at the State Laboratory are considered the gold standard of influenza laboratory testing for influenza surveillance purposes.)



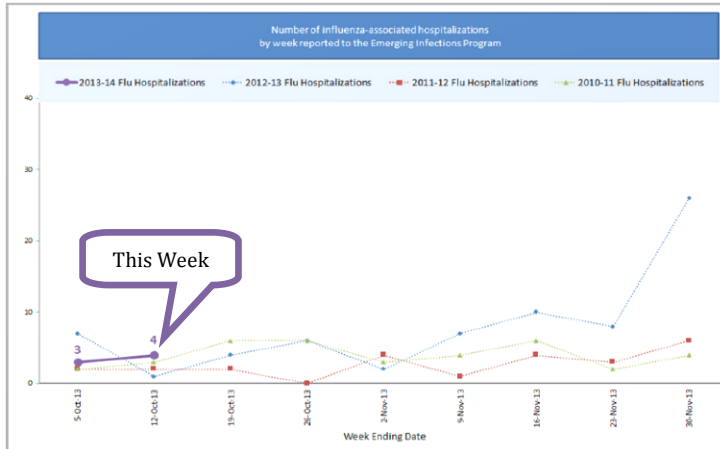
Positive PCR Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A (H1)	1 (100%)	1 (100%)	2 (100%)
Type A (H3)	--	--	--
Type A (H3N2v)	--	--	--
Type B	--	--	--
Total	1 (100%)	1 (100%)	2 (100%)

## Where to get an influenza vaccination

Interested in getting a flu vaccine for the 2013-14 influenza season? Go to <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/flumnd/SitePages/getvaccinated.aspx> and click on your county/city of residence. You will be redirected to your local health department website for local information on where to get your flu vaccine.

## Influenza-associated Hospitalizations

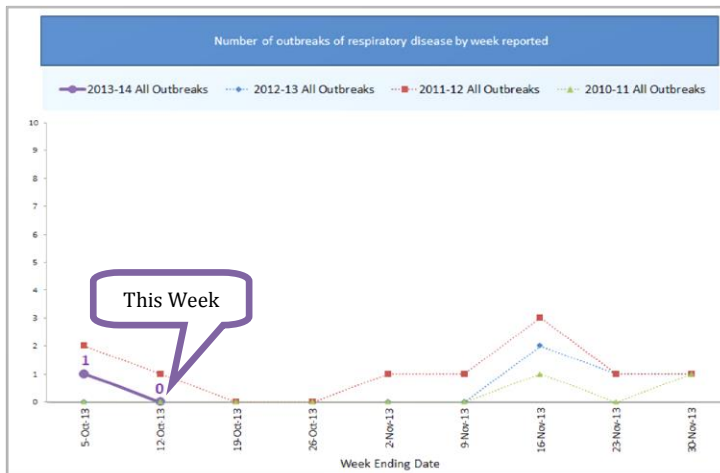
Last week, hospitals in Maryland reported 4 influenza-associated hospitalizations. (A person with an overnight hospital stay along with a positive influenza test of any kind, e.g. rapid test or PCR, is considered an "influenza-associated hospitalization" for purposes of influenza surveillance.)



Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	--	1 (33%)	1 (14%)
Age 5-17	--	--	--
Age 18-24	--	--	--
Age 25-49	--	--	--
Age 50-64	3 (75%)	--	3 (43%)
Age ≥ 65	1 (25%)	2 (67%)	3 (43%)
Total	4 (100%)	3 (100%)	7 (100%)

## Outbreaks of Respiratory Disease

No outbreaks of respiratory disease were reported to DHMH last week. (Disease outbreaks of any kind are reportable in Maryland. Respiratory outbreaks may be reclassified once a causative agent is detected, e.g. from ILI to influenza.)



Respiratory Outbreaks by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Influenza	--	--	--
Influenza-like Illness	--	--	--
Pneumonia	--	1 (100%)	1 (100%)
Other Respiratory	--	--	--
Total	--	1 (100%)	1 (100%)

## National Influenza Surveillance (CDC)

During the week ending October 12, 2013, influenza activity remained low in the United States.

- Viral Surveillance:** Of 3,534 specimens tested and reported by the U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) collaborating laboratories during week 41, 166 (4.7%) were positive for influenza.
- Novel Influenza A Virus:** One human infection with novel influenza A virus was reported.
- Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality:** The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was below the epidemic threshold.
- Influenza-Associated Pediatric Deaths:** No influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported.
- Outpatient Illness Surveillance:** The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 1.1%, below the national baseline of 2.0%. All 10 regions reported ILI below region-specific baseline levels. Two states experienced low ILI activity, 48 states and New York City experienced minimal activity, and the District of Columbia had insufficient data.
- Geographic Spread of Influenza:** The geographic spread of influenza in Puerto Rico was reported as regional; 3 states reported local influenza activity; Guam, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and 24 states reported sporadic influenza activity; 22 states reported no influenza activity, and one state did not report.

Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Activity Level Indicator Determined by Data Reported to ILINet  
2013-14 Influenza Season Week 41 ending Oct 12, 2013

